

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 302978 TOSEC 250012

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 302978 TOSEC 250012

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SENT ACTION TO TEHRAN INFO TEL AVIV DAMASCUS
FROM SECSTATE

QUOTE S E C R E T STATE 302978

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, IR, US

SUBJECT:JANUARY SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SISCO

1. WE NOTE THAT SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD IS SCHEDULED TO
VISIT TEHRAN DECEMBER 28. WE ASSUME THAT IN HIS TALKS
WITH THE SHAH THE FORTHCOMING JANUARY 12 SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST WILL COME UP, SINCE IT
FIGURES IMPORTANTLY IN THE CURRENT SYRIAN MIDDLE EAST
STRATEGY. WE WOULD LIKE FOR THE SHAH TO BE FAMILIAR
WITH OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT PRIOR TO HIS TALKS WITH
ASAD, AND YOU SHOULD BRIEF HIM ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 302978 TOSEC 250012

PRIOR TO THAT TIME.

2. TELL THE SHAH THAT, AS HE KNOWS, WE WANT TO KEEP HIM INFORMED ON OUR THINKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM IN WHICH WE SHARE A STRONG MUTUAL INTEREST. THE JANUARY SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION RAISES A NUMBER OF BASIC ISSUES AND WE WOULD LIKE HIM TO BE AWARE OF OUR VIEWS ABOUT THEM. WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO HIM TO HAVE OUR VIEWS BEFORE THE VISIT OF PRESIDENT ASAD TO TEHRAN SINCE SYRIA WAS A PRIME MOVER IN ARRANGING FOR

THE COUNCIL MEETING.

3. WE ARE IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, MOST RECENTLY DURING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S VISIT TO DAMASCUS DECEMBER 17. WE INTEND TO STAY IN COMMUNICATION WITH THE SYRIANS AS WE APPROACH THE COUNCIL MEETING AND WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO WORK WITH THEM TOWARD A CONSTRUCTIVE OUTCOME. AS THE SYRIANS ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, THERE ARE DEFINITE LIMITS TO WHAT WE CAN AGREE TO, AND WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS DIRECTLY INVOLVED FULLY UNDERSTAND THEM.

4. WE FEEL VERY STRONGLY THAT THE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK THAT CONSISTS OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338, AS WELL AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FORMULA, IS AN ESSENTIAL BASIS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE. WE WOULD OPPOSE EFFORTS IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF UNDERMINING THIS FRAMEWORK.

5. WE STRONGLY OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO MAKE THE SC THE MAIN INSTRUMENT OF MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. WE ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE ANY CHANCES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS. WITH ITS WIDE VARIETY OF PARTICIPANTS AND OF POLITICAL PRESSURES, THE COUNCIL COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE CAREFUL AND DISPASSIONATE NEGOTIATION OF SENSITIVE ISSUES THAT ARE, MOREOVER, CONVINCED THAT THERE CAN BE NO IMPOSED SETTLEMENT, EITHER BY THE COUNCIL OR ANY OTHER SOURCE. ANY EFFORT TO REVERT TO THE CONCEPT OF A SETTLEMENT DECIDED

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 302978 TOSEC 250012

UPON AND IMPOSED BY THE COUNCIL -- A THEME THAT HAD SOME SUPPORT AMONG THE ARABS IN THE POST-1967 PERIOD, WOULD SERIOUSLY RISK CARRYING US BACK TO THE STALEMATE OF THAT PERIOD.

6. WE ARE CONVINCED THE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK IN WHICH SO MUCH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED SINCE 1973 IS FLEXIBLE ENOUGH TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS LEADING

ULTIMATELY TO SETTLEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND THE ARAB DESIRE
TO SEE THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BROUGHT INTO THE
NEGOTIATING PROCESS. WE HAVE SAID MANY TIMES THAT NO
SETTLEMENT WILL BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT A SATISFACTORY
RESOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. WE BELIEVE,
HOWEVER, THAT THE FRAMEWORK WE NOW HAVE CAN ACCOMMODATE
THIS, AND OUR AIM IS TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS FRAMEWORK.
IT WOULD BE IN NO ONE'S INTEREST, EXCEPT ANY WHO MIGHT
NOT WANT A SETTLEMENT, IF THE COUNCIL DEBATE SHOULD RESULT
IN LIMITING THE PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS OF THIS KIND. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE SISCO

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